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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: HERSCOVICI et al.

Serial No.: 10/605,208

Art Unit: 2166

Filed: 9/15/2003

Examiner: PHAM, Khanh B.

Title: *Automatic Query Routing and Rank Configuration for Search Queries in an Information Retrieval System*

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the outstanding office action of December 20, 2005, the Applicants submit the following:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. H. H. H.', is located to the right of the main text block.

Amendments to the **Drawings** are not being made by this paper.

Amendments to the **Specification** are not being made by this paper.

Amendments to the **Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.

[0023] It should be noted that the preferred embodiment discloses a broad case wherein only two query categories are described: one for navigational queries and one for information queries. However, in addition to classifying a query to a query category, a different methodology can be used to calculate a rank configuration. For example, the calculation of these parameters could also be done using a function which interpolates a value in between the query categories, which results in a more gradual selection of ranking parameters. For instance, this function could decide that a query is 30 % navigational and 70 % informational. The parameters would be calculated accordingly. This leads to a more fuzzy generation of ranking parameters. In this case, a query would have a probability associated with each query class. As an example, for three query classes A, B, and C, a query 'q' can have A:0.8, B:0.15, and C:0.05, where the sum of probabilities is always 1.

As Berton et al is not prior art against the invention of claims 1-17, and new claims 18 and 19 are dependent from claims 1 and 12 respectively, claims 18 and 19 are also allowable, even though Lempel's contribution was conceived later than the relevant dates.


SUMMARY

As has been detailed above, none of the prior art references, cited or applied, provide for the specific claimed details of applicants' presently claimed invention, nor renders them obvious. It is believed that this case is in condition for allowance and reconsideration thereof and early issuance is respectfully requested.

This response is being filed with a request for extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the extension fee, as well as any deficiencies in the fees provided to Deposit Account No. 09-0441.

If it is felt that an interview would expedite prosecution of this application, please do not
hesitate to contact applicants' representative at the below number.

Respectfully submitted,


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April 11, 2006